

ARTICLES

To be enquired of within the Diocese of
HEREFORD,

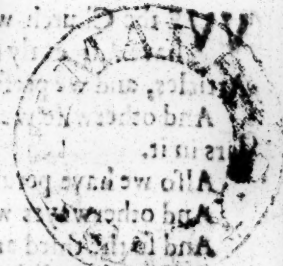
In the Second and Ordinary Visitation of the
Reverend Father in God,

GEORGE,

Lord Bishop of HEREFORD.

Bishop George Coke

STC 10218



LONDON,

Printed by **THOMAS HARPER.** 1640.

THe Minister and Church-wardens are to call unto them some of the chiefe neighbours of the parish, and they together are to read over these Articles, and carefully and conscionably advise and consider what things are to bee presented: then the Church-wardens, and Side-men are to bring their presentments to the Visitation, and there, upon their oathes to deliver the same up under their hands to the Lord Bishops Officer's.

*The Oath to be ministered to the Church-wardens
and Sidemen.*

You shall sweare, that you, and every of you shall duly consider, and diligently enquire of all and every of these articles given you in charge, and that all affection, favour, hatred, hope of reward and gaine, or feare of displeasure, or malice set aside; you shall present all and every such person, that now is, or of late was within your parish, as hath committed any offence, or made any defaults, mentioned in these or any of these articles; or which are vehemently suspected or defamed, of any such offence or default: wherein you shall deale uprightly and justly; neither presenting, nor sparing to present any contrary to truth: haveing in this action God before your eyes with an earnest zeale, to maintaine truth, and to suppress vice; so helpe you God, and the holy contents of this booke.

The forme of drawing of the Bill of Presentment.

THe Church wardens Presentment is to bee made according to this following forme, or a neerer unto it as conveniently may be, and to be given up in a sheet of paper.

*At the Lord Bishop of Hereford's Visitation, held at
the day of
Anno Dom, 1640.*

WE the Church-wardens, and Sidemen of the Parish of
have diligently perused all the particulars contained in the first head of our Booke of
Articles, and we present &c.

And otherwise we have nothing to present concerning that head or any of the particulars in it.

Also we have perused the second, and doe present, &c.

And otherways we have nothing to present.

And so the third and fourth, &c.

And under all let every Church-warden and Side-man write or subscribe his owne name or marke to the Presentment, and so deliver it. And this Presentment is to bee made, not onely to every head, but so farre as neede requireth, to every Article in particular.

Articles to be enquired of in the Diocesse of *Hereford*, in the Visitation holden in the yeare of our Lord, 1640.

I. Articles concerning Religion and Doctrine.



Whether be there any abiding or resorting to your parish, who have wilfully maintained and defended, or do maintaine or defend any heresies, errors, or false opinions, contrary to the faith of Christ, and holy Scripture?

2 Whether be there any in your parish that do impugne any of the 39 Articles of Religion, agreed upon in anno 1562, and established in the Church of England.

3 Whether is his Majesties Declaration prefixed before those 39 Articles, concerning the settling of the Questions in difference duly observed by all within your parish, according to his Majesties commandement?

4 Whether be there any within your parish, that deny, or perswade any other to deny, withstand, or impugn the Kings Majesties authority and supremacy, in causes Ecclesiasticall within this Realme?

5 Whether be there any in your parish that hath been or is vehemently suspected to have been present at any unlawfull assemblies, conventicles, or meetings, under colour or pretence of any exercise of Religion? or do any affirme and maintaine such meetings to be lawfull, contrary to his Majesties lawes in that behalfe?

6 Whether bee there any abiding or resorting to your parish that are commonly reputed to be ill-affectred in matter of Religion professed in our church, or taken to be recusant Papists, refusing to repaire unto the Church to heare divine Service, and to receiue the holy communion, being disobedient to his Majesties lawes, in that behalfe? Or be there any in your parish that have or do publish, sell or disperse any superstitious bookes or writings, or any other seditious or schismaticall bookes, libels, or writings touching the Religion, State, or ecclesiasticall government of this kingdome of England? Present their names, qualities and conditions.

II. Articles concerning publike prayer and administration of the Sacraments.

1 **V**Whether have any in your parish spoken, or declared any thing in derogation, or depravation of the forme of Gods worship, established in the Church of England, and administration of the Sacraments, rites, and ceremonies, set forth and prescribed in the booke of common prayer? Or do any preach, speak, or declare, that it containeth any thing that is repugnant to the holy Scripture?

2 Whether hath any in your parish caused, procured, or maintained any Minister, to say any common or publick prayer, or to administer either of the Sacraments, Wapisme, or the Lords Supper, otherwise or in any other manner and forme, then is mentioned in the sayd booke of common prayer? or whether hath any interrupted, hindered, let, or disturbed the Minister in reading of divine Service, or administration of the Sacraments, in such manner and forme, as is mentioned in the said booke? or hath any interrupted him in his preachings and Sermons?

3 Whether is the Sacrament of baptism rightly and duly administered, according to the forme prescribed in the booke of common prayer; with due observation of all rites

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You shall sweare, that you, and every of you shall duly consider, and diligently enquire of all and every of these articles given you in charge, and that all affection, favour, hatred, hope of reward and gaine, or feare of displeasure, or malice set aside; you shall present all and every such person, that now is, or of late was within your parish, as hath committed any offence, or made any defaults, mentioned in these or any of these articles; or which are vehemently suspected or defamed, of any such offence or default: wherein you shall deale uprightly and justly; neither presenting, nor sparing to present any contrary to truth: haveing in this action God before your eyes with an earnest zeale, to maintaine truth, and to suppress vice; so helpe you God, and the holy contents of this booke.

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3 Whether is his Majesties Declaration prefixed before those 39 Articles, concerning the settling of the Questions in difference duly observed by all within your parish, according to his Majesties commandement?

4 Whether be there any within your parish, that deny, or perswade any other to deny, withstand, or impugne the Kings Majesties authority and supremacy, in causes Ecclesiasticall within this Realme?

5 Whether be there any in your parish that hath been or is vehemently suspected to have been present at any unlawfull assemblies, conventicles, or meetings, under colour or pretence of any exercise of Religion? or do any affirme and maintaine such meetings to be lawfull, contrary to his Majesties lawes in that behalfe?

6 Whether bee there any abiding or resorting to your parish that are commonly reputed to be ill-affectd in matter of Religion professed in our church, or taken to be recusant Papists, refusing to repaire unto the Church to heare divine Service, and to receiue the holy communion, being disobedient to his Majesties lawes, in that behalfe? Or be there any in your parish that have or no publish, sell or disperse any superstitious bookes or writings, or any other seditious or schismaticall bookes, libels, or writings touching the Religion, State, or ecclesiasticall government of this kingdome of England? Present their names, qualities and conditions.

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2 Whether hath any in your parish caused, procured, or maintained any Minister, to say any common or publick prayer, or to administer either of the Sacraments, by a name, or the Lords Supper, otherwise or in any other manner and forme, then is mentioned in the sayd booke of common prayer? or whether hath any interrupted, hindered, let, or disturbed the Minister in reading of divine Service, or administration of the Sacraments, in such manner and forme, as is mentioned in the said booke? or hath any interrupted him in his preachings and Sermons?

3 Whether is the Sacrament of baptisme rightly and duly administered, according to the forme prescribed in the booke of common prayer, with due observation of all rites

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and ceremonies prescribed to be used in the administration of the same, without adding or altering of any part or parcell of any persons, or other ceremonies: and whether is the signe of the Crosse and the Surplices alwayes used in the administration of it?

4 whether is the administration of the Sacrament of Baptisme, deferred longer than till the next Sunday or hollyday, immediately following the birth of the child?

5 whether is the Sacrament of Baptisme refused to be administered to any child, even before he is out of the womb, the birth being made knowne to the Minister of the parish, and they offered unto him to be baptized: or have any such children died unbaptized?

6 whether have the parents of the child baptized, been admitted to be Godfathers and Godmothers to the same: or have any been admitted to be Godfathers or Godmothers to any child, before they have received the holy communion, contrary to Can. 29? or have any godfathers or godmothers, used any other answers or speech in Baptisme, than is by the booke of common prayer appointed: or have they given unto the children, baptized any name that is absurd, or into convenient for so holy an action?

7 whether have there any children been baptized in private houses, by any lay person or woman, or by any other than your own Minister and by him, other wayes then only in case of necessity: and have such children thus privately baptized, and surviving, been afterwards brought unto your Church, to be ingrossed in the congregation and the minister of the parish may be certified, whether they or any of them were lawfully baptized or no?

8 whether have the children that have been by one to any hospital, Mercantile or Ecclesiastical in your parish, been publicly baptized in your parish church, by your Parson, Vicar, or Curate: or by whom else were they baptized, or where, to your knowledge?

9 whether hath the blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper been daily and reverently administered in your Church or Chappell, so oft, and at such convenient times, that at least thrice every yeare (whereof once at Easter) every parishioner within your parish, being of the age of seven yeares, or upwards, might receive the same?

10 whether is the said blessed Sacrament delivered unto any or received by any of the Communicants within your parish, that do unreverently either sit or stand, or that do not devoutly and humbly kneele upon their knees?

11 whether have any of your parish, which are openly knowne to live in notorious sin without repentance, or any excommunicate persons, or schismaticks, common & notorious depravers of the Religion and government of this Realme, without upreceiving thereof by them for their impiety and wickednesse, been admitted to be partakers of the holy Communion.

12 whether hath any of your parish been debarr'd from the said holy communion without just cause, and without intimation first given to the ordinary or Bishop of the Diocese, and by whose default?

III. Articles concerning the Church, the furniture and ornaments thereof, and the Churches possessions.

VV whether have you in your Church or Chappell, the whole Bible of the largest volume, and of the last translation: the booke of Common prayer, set forth by authority the two booke of Homilies, and Bishop Jewel's Apology, all well and faithfully bound: And whether have you also in your Church, the booke of Constitutions or Canons Ecclesiasticall, as is commanded?

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1. Whether have you in your Church or Chappell, a Font of Stone, whole and cleane with a cover set in the ancient usual place; a convenient and decent communion-table, with a carpet of blue, or some other decent stuffe; continually laid upon the table at the time of divine Service: & a faire linnen cloth laid thereon at the time of administering the Communion: And whether is the same table placed conveniently, as it ought to be: & whether is it so used in, or out of the time of divine service or sermon as is not agreeable to the holy use of it: as namely by sitting on it, or by throwing hats on it, or writing on it: or is it abused to any other prophane use: And whether are the ten Commandments set up on the East end of your Church, or Chappell, where the people may see and read them, and other chosen sentences also written upon the walls of your said church or chappell, in places convenient for the same purpose.

2. Whether have you in your said church or chappell a convenient seate for your Minister to read divine Service in, together with a comely pulpit, set up by it selfe and severed from the said seate in a convenient place, with a decent cloth or cushion for the same: a comely large Surplice, a faire communion cup of silver, and a cover agreeable to the same: a Flagon of silver, or pewter, with all other things and ornaments necessary for the celebration of divine Service and administration of the Sacraments: And whether have you a chest, wherein to put the almes of the poore, with three lockes and keyes unto it, and another chest for the keeping of the books and ornaments of the church, and the Register-book:

3. Have you a Register book in parchment wherein to register marriages, Weddings, and Burials: and is the same kept in all points according to the canon, and is the christian name of the Mother as well as the Father therein duly registered, and is their a transcript thereof transcribed every yeare into the Bishops synodall Register, there to be faithfully preserved: Have you also a false payer-book wherein to certify Preacher, which is a stranger, is to subscribe his name the day he preached, and by whose authority he is licensed, and do you see the same duly executed and prohibit all that doe not the same: and have you also a Table set up in your church, of the degrees, wherein by law men are prohibited to marry:

4. Whether is your church or chappell, with the Chancell thereof, and your Parsonage house, or Vicarage house, and all other houses thereto belonging, your Parish Almes-house, and Church-house, in good reparations: and are they employed to godly and their right holy uses: And if any of them be ruined and wasted, in whome is the default: and is your Church, Chancell, and Chappell, decently and comely kept, as well within as without: and are the seates in them well maintained: the steeple and bells preserved, the windowes in no part rotten up, well glazed, the doores kept paved, plaine, and even, and all things there, in orderly and decent sort, without doubt or any thing that may bee either noysome or unsightly for the house of God, as is prescribed in an Homily to that effect, and the 8. canon:

5. Whether are any in your Parish that hath or doth refuse to contribute towards the reparation of your church, and toward the provision of such things as belong thereto:

6. Whether is your Church or Chappell-yard well fenced, and kept without abuse: and if not whole is the default: hath any person incroached upon the ground of the churchyard: hath any used that place consecrated to an holy use, profanely or wickedly: Hath any quarrelled or stricken one another, either in the Church or Church-yard: Hath any person behaved himselfe rudely, and disorderly in either, used any filthy

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filthy or prophane talk, or any other rude and immodest behaviour in them? Have any playes, feasts, Banquets, Suppers, Church-ales, Drinkings, temporall Courts or Leets, Lay-juries, Musters, or any other prophane usage been suffered to be kept in your Church, Chappell, or Church-yard? Have any annoyed your Church-yard, or the fence thereof, by putting in of cattell, by hanging of clothes, or by laying any dung, or other filthynesse there? And kept free from Swine, and all other nastynesse?

8 Whether are your Church-wardens carefull to take speciall notice that no dogs be at any time suffered to come into the Church to the disturbance of divine Service, and deuotions of the people, and polluting of that holy place, of the Christian congregation, and do any of the inhabitants of what condition soeuer or of their company bring their dogs to come thither to the profanation of the house of God, and his holy worship.

9 What Legacies have been giuen to the use and benefit of your Church, and how have they been bestowed? Who hath receiued, and detaineth them without due employment? Whether doth any detain, or embesell, or hath sold and made away any of the Church-goods, or used and employed them otherwise than by Law they ought to be?

10 Whether is your Church full or vacant of an Incumbent? And if vacant, who receiveth the fruits thereof, and who serbeth the cure, and by what authority? And whether is it a Parsonage, Vicarage, or Donative? To whom both the Parsonage thereof belong, and by whose right did your Minister come in therunto, and what is it worth one yeare with another by common estimation?

11 Whether is there in your parish or any where about you, that you know or have heard of any Church, Chappell or Oratory now demolished or like to be ruined, or that is converted to any priuate, or secular use?

12 Whether doth any priuate man or men, of his or their owne authority, erect any pews or build any new seats in your Church? And what pews or seats have been so built? By whose procurement, and by whose authority?

13 Whether hath any in your parish defaced or caused to be defaced, any monuments or ornaments in your Church?

14 Whether hath any Popish Recusant being lawfully excommunicate or any other excommunicated person, been interred or buried in your Church or Church-yard, before absolution from that censure and excommunication obtained? And if yea, then by whom, and when?

15 Whether be not the profits, tithes, and other commodities Ecclesiasticall, belonging to the Parsonage or Vicarage of your parish, impiously and wickedly, to the dishonour of Almighty God, and prejudice of the sacred Ministry, converted to the use and benefit of covetous Patrons, and by them receiued and detained, and how long have they been so used to your knowledge?

16 Whether have you a true terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Meadows, Gardens, Orchards, Houses, Stocks, implements, tenements, and portions of tithes, whether within your parish or without, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, taken by the view of honest men in your said parish? And whether is it safely kept and preserved, and in whose hands? And whether hath there a true copy thereof, under the hands of the Minister and Church-wardens, been transmitted, and laid up in the Bishopps Registry, there to continue for a perpetuall memory thereof? And if you have no such Terrier yet made, you the Church-wardens and Elders, together with your Par-

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Don or Vicar, or in his absence, your Curate, are to make diligent enquiry of the promises, and to make, subscribe, and signe the said Terrier, and to bring in a true copy of it into the Bishops Registry, as is aforesaid.

IV. Articles concerning the Ministers of Gods holy word, Lecturers, and Preachers.

V Whether is your Minister, Parson, Vicar, or Curate, a licensed Preacher and by whom was he licensed? Whether is he a Graduate in either of the Universities, yea or no? And if he be a Graduate, then of what degree is he?

6 Whether is your Minister a licensed Preacher yea or no? And if he be licensed, then by whom? And whether doth he preach usually in his owne Cure, or in some other Church or Chappell neare adjoining, where there is no Preacher, once every Sunday, according to the 45 Canon? And if he be not a licensed Preacher, whether doth he take upon him in his owne cure or else where, to expound any Scripture or matter of doctrine, contrary to the 49 Canon? And whether being no licensed Preacher, doth he keep himselfe only to the reading of the Homilies published by authority; and besides, procure Sermons to be preached amongst you, once every month at least, by such as were lawfully licensed? and doth he or his Curate upon every Sunday when there is no Sermon, read some one of the Homilies, prescribed by authority, as he ought to doe?

3 Whether is your Minister resident with you upon his benefice? or if absent, how long time hath he been so: and where is he resident for the most part? And doth he in his absence make allowance to the poore? and what allowance doth he make? hath he any other Benefice? And doth hee supply his absence by a Curate that is licensed to preach? and what allowance doth he give to his Curate?

4 Whether is your Curate licensed by the Bishop of the Diocese? and whether doth your Minister or curate serve any more cures than one? If yea; then what other cures doth he serve, and how far are his cures distant one from the other?

5 Whether hath any being no Minister or Deacon, presumed to read common prayers openly in your church or chappell, or to serve the cures of your Parish? or whether hath any Deacon, not having received the full order of Priesthood, taken upon him alone to administer the communion in your church or chappell? you are to present the names of any that have herein offended.

6 Whether doth your Minister, Preacher or Lecturer, observe the forme of prayer before his or their Sermon, that is prescribed by the 55 canon; therein moving the people, as they are there directed, to joyne with him in prayer for Christs holy Catholick Church, and for the Kings most excellent Majestie, the Queen, the Prince, and the rest of the Royall progeny; clergy, counsell, and giving every of them their full Titles, as in the canon is required, alwayes concluding with the Lords prayer?

7 Whether doth your Minister distinctly and reverently say divine Service, upon Sundayes and Holidayes, and other dayes appointed to be observed; as Wednesdayes and Fridayes, and the Eves of every Sunday and Holyday, as fit and usuall times, according to the forme prescribed in the Book of common prayer? and doth he duly observe the orders, rites, and ceremonies prescribed in the said Book; as well in reading all publicke prayers and the Letany, as also in administering the Sacrament, solemnization of marriage, visitation of the sick, burying of the dead, churching of women, and

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all other like rites and offices of the church, in such manner and forme as in the said booke of common prayer by law established is appointed: without addition or subtraction of any thing.

8 Whether doth the Minister reading divine Service, and administering the Sacraments and other Rites of the church, alwayes weare the Surplice: and doth he never at such times omit the wearing of the same? And if he be a graduate, whether doth he weare also his Surplice, at such times, such a Hood, as by the order of the Universities is suitable to his degree?

9 Whether doth your parson or vicar, having a curate under him, notwithstanding read divine Service himselfe, upon those severall Sundays in the yeare, publickly at the usuall times, both in the fore and afternoon, in the church which he possesseth: and whether doth he also administer both Sacraments, as often in every yeare, in such manner and forme, and with the observation of all such Rites and Ceremonies, as are prescribed in the booke of common prayer, in that behalfe?

10 Whether doth your Minister preacher, and Lecturer, every yeare of purpose, and expressly teach and declare, the lawfull authority which the King hath over the State both Ecclesiasticall and Civill, and the just abolishing of all foreign power, or jurisdiction over the same?

11 Whether doeth your Minister in his Sermons publish any doctrine which is new and strange, and disagreeing from the Word of God, and from the Articles of christian Faith and Religion, agreed on, and published Anno Dom. 1542. And whether doth he teach any thing, which he would have the people religiously to observe and believe, but that which is agreeable to the Scriptures, and that which the catholicke Fathers and ancient Bishops have gathered out of that doctrine according to the canon?

12 Whether doth your Minister alwayes use, and never omit to take the child in his armes, and use the signe of the crosse in Baptisme? And whether doth he ever baptize in any basin, or other vessel, and not in the usuall font? and whether hath he deferred or wilfully refused to baptize any Infant in your parish, being in danger of death, and having been duly enjoined of the weakness thereof: and whether hath the child died by his default without Baptisme?

13 Whether doth your Minister or curate often admonish the people that they defer not the baptisme of their Infants any longer than the Sunday or Holiday next after they be born, unlesse upon a great and reasonable cause, declared to the Minister or Curate, and approved by him, nor doth suffer them to be baptized at home, but upon great danger of death?

14 Whether hath your Minister admitted any person to answer as Godfather or Godmother at the christning of a child: that hath not before received the holy Communion, and is not able to recite the Lords prayer, the ten commandments, the Articles of Beliefe, and to answer to the same, being required? And doth he at the font, as soon as he hath baptized any child, admonish them to bring the child to the Bishop to be confirmed?

15 Whether doth your Minister every Sunday and Holiday before evening prayer, for halfe an houre or more, catechize and instruct the young and ignorant persons of your parish, in the ten commandments, the Articles of Beliefe, and the Lords prayer: and whether doth he use, for that purpose, the catechisme set forth in the booke of common prayer, and diligently heare in secret and teach them in the said catechisme, or what other catechisme doth he use? And whether be the young and ignorant persons of your

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parish sent in due time unto the church by them that ought to send them; to be catechised and instructed by the Minister; and if not, you are to present the names of those that make default in sending them, and of those that use not to come?

16 Whether are your afternoone sermons turned into catechizing by question and answer, where and whensoever there is no great cause apparant to the contrary, according to his Majesties last direction?

17 Whether doth your Minister administer the holy communion every moneth, or at least thrice in the yere (whereof once at Easter) to every parishioner in your parish that is 16 yeres of age, and upwards? And whether doth he first receive the same himselfe, kneeling, on every day that he administreth it to others, & administreth it to none, but to such as do knole at the receyving thereof? And whether doth he use the words of institution, according to the Book of common prayer, without alteration, at every time that the Bread and wine is renewed, according to the 21 Canon? And whether is there warning given by him to the parishioners publickly in the Church, at morning prayer, the Sunday before every time of his administering of the holy Communion, for their better preparation therunto according to the 22 Canon?

18 Whether hath your Minister admitted, unto the holy Communion any of his cure or flock, whitch be openly known to lye in sinne notorious without repentance, or any that have maliciously and openly contended with their neighbours, before they be reconciled; or any Churchwardens or Side-men, who having taken their oaths to present to their Ordinary all such publick offences, as they are particularly charged to enquire of, in the parish; have and do notwithstanding, wittingly and willingly, desperatly and irreligiously incurre the horrible crime of perjury, either in neglecting, or in refusing to present such enormities, and publick offences as they know themselves to be committed within your Parish, contrary to the 25 Canon?

19 Whether doth your Minister admit unto the Communion, any that refuse to be present at you publick prayers; or who are notorious depravers of the book of common prayer and administration of Sacraments, or of the Orders, Rites, and ceremonies therein prescribed, or of any thing contained in the 39 Articles, or in the book of ordering Priests and Bishops; or who have spoken against and depraived his Majesties soveraigne authority in causes Ecclesiasticall, unless they and every of them doe first acknowledge their repentance for their sin and promise to do so no more?

20 Whether doth your Minister or Curate admit any to the communion, before they can say their catechisme, and be confirmed?

21 Whether doth your Minister, together with the Churchwardens and Quill-men, take diligent heed and care, not only that all and every of your owne parishioners do receive thrice every yere; but also that no strangers of any other Parish doe come often, and commonly to your church, from the r own Parish Church, lest perhaps they should be admitted to receive the communion there?

22 Whether doth your Minister before the severall times of the administration of the Lords Supper, admonish and exhort his parishioners, if any of them have their consciences troubled and disquieted, to resort unto him, or to some other learned Minister, and open their griefe, that they may receive such ghostly counsell and comfort, as their conscience may be relieved, and by the Minister they may receive the benefit of absolution to the quiet of their conscience, and avoiding of all scruple: And if any man confesse his secret and hidden sins, being sick, or whole, to the Minister for the unburdening of his conscience, and receiving of spirituall consolation or ease of minde from him, doth he the said Minister, or hath he at any time revealed any made know ne to any person whatsoever, any crime or offence so committed to his trust and secrecy con-

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23 Whether hath your Minister solemnized marriage between any person under the age of one and twenty years, without the consent of their Parents or Governors? or hath he married any without a Ring or in times prohibited, or without the Bands first published, three severall Sundays or Holydaies, in time of divine Service, in the severall Churches or Chappels of their severall abodes, without a special Licence from the Arch-bishop, or Bishop of the Diocesse, or his Chancelor, first had and obtained?

24 Whether doth your Minister use the soyme of thanksgiving to women after child-birth? or hath he admitted therunto any woman begotten with child in adultery, or fornication, without licence of his Ordinary?

25 Doth your Minister carefully looke to the reliefe of the poore; and from time to time call upon his parishioners, to give somewhat, according to their abilities, to godly and charitable uses; especially when they make their wills?

26 Whether doth your Minister or Curate resort unto such as be dangerously sick in your Parish, to instruct and comfort them in their distresses, according to the order of the Book of common prayer: not omitting, then especially, to move them earnestly to liberality towards the poore?

27 Whether hath your Minister, ever refused to bury any, who ought to be interred with Christian buriall, or hath he deferred the same longer then he should? doth he go before the Corp's to the grave, and there say the whole Service appointed, or hath he admitted any to Christian buriall, who ought not by the Lawes of the holy Church, or of this Realme to be so buried?

28 Whether doth your Minister, being a Preacher, and having any Popish Recusant, or Recusants in your Parish, labour diligently with them from time to time, to reclaim them from their errors? or otherwise is he over-conversant with them or suspected to favour them?

29 Whether hath your Minister, or any other, taking upon him the calling of a Minister preached, baptized childzen, (except in case of necessity) solemnized marriage, churched any women or ministered the holy communion, in any private house or houses, otherwise then by law is allowed? if yea, then where, when, and how often hath he offended in any of the premises?

30 Whether doth your Minister, every six moneths, in your Parish Church openly in time of divine Service, upon some Sunday, denounce, and declare excommunication, such as do persevere in the sentence of excommunication, not seeking to be absolved: and whether hath he said divine Service, whilst any excommunicate person hath been present in the Church? or hath he admitted any person, that hath been excommunicate, into the Church, without a certificate of his absolution from the Ordinary? or hath he stayed or forbore to denounce any Excommunication or Suspension, that hath been sent him from his Ordinary?

31 Whether hath your Minister been at any private Conventicles, to consult there of any course to be taken by them, or by any other upon their motion, which may any way tend to the impeachment or depraving of the doctrine of the Church of England, or of the book of common Prayer, or of any part of the Government and Discipline now established in the Church of England?

32 Whether doth your Minister, upon Sundayes, at morning Prayer, declare unto the parishioners, what fastingdaies and Holydaies are appointed to be kept the week following, according to the book of common Prayer?

33 Whether doth your Minister, in the Rogation-daies, goe the perambulation of the circuit of your Parish, saying and using the prayers, suffrages, and thanksgiving

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to God, appointed by Law, according to his duty, thanking God for his blessings, and praying for his grace and favour?

34 Whether doth your Parson or Vicar, maintain and keep in due reparation, the mansion-house, and other edifices belonging to his Parsonage, or Vicarage, without suffering them to grow into ruine or decay?

35 Whether hath your Minister taken upon him, to appoint any private or publick fairs, preaching, or lecturing, prophesies or exercises, not approved and established by Law, or publick authority without licence from his Ordinary?

36 Whether is your Minister studious in holy Scripture, and abstaineth from mechanicall Trades or labour, not befitting his function; and from apparell unseemly for his calling, using that decency and gravity therein, that is prescribed by the 74 Canon?

37 Whether is your Minister suspected or known to have obtained his benefice by any Simoniacall compact, directly or indirectly? or whether is he reputed to be an incontinent person, a haunter of Tavernes or Ale-houses, a common gamester, or player at dice, a common swearer, or drunkard, or otherwise faulty in any other kind that is punishable by Ecclesiasticall censure, and scandalous to his function?

38 Whether hath your Minister publickly, in your Parish Church or Chappell, once every yeere, read over the Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiasticall, agreed upon by the Clergy of both Provinces, Anno Dom. 1603. in such manner as the same is commanded to be done?

39 Whether is there any in your Parish, who having been admitted into holy Orders, either Deacon or Minister, doth voluntarily relinquish and forsake his calling, and liveth in the course of his life as a mere lay-man?

40 Whether are any Ministers admitted to preach in your Church, who do not, before the Church-wardens, subscribe their names in your Book provided for that purpose; the day when they preached, and the name of the Bishop or Bishops of whom they had licence to preach?

41 Whether doth any Preacher, in your pulpit, particularly impugne and confute any doctrine delivered by any other Preacher, in the same Church, or in any Church neere adjoining, before he hath acquainted the Bishop of the Diocesse therewith, and received order from him, what to do in that case?

42 Whether have you any Lecturer in your Parish; and whether, if any such be, doth he twice at the least, every yeere, reade himselfe divine Service, both morning and evening, two severall Sundayes publickly, in his Surplice and Hood, according to his degree, and also twice in the year administer both Sacraments, with such Rites and Ceremonies as are prescribed by the book of common Prayer?

43 Whether doth your Lecturer read divine Service according to the Liturgy authorized by authority, in his Surplice and Hood, before his Lecture, according to his Qualities and direction?

44 Whether doth your Preacher or Lecturer behave himselfe in his Lectures and Sermons, as he ought to do, teaching obedience, and edifying his auditoz in matters of faith and good life, without intermeddling with matters of State, or other discourse, not fit for the Pulpit?

45 Whether have you any Lecture of combination set up in your Parish, and if so, whether is it read by a company of grave and orthodox Divines, neere adjoining and, in the same Diocesse, and whether do they preach in gowns, and not in cloaks, according to his Majesties late order?

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46 Whether is any single Lecturer maintained by a Corporation, suffered to preach there, he not first professing his willingness to take upon him a living, with cure of soules within that Corporation; nor actually taking such benefice or cure, so soon as it shall be fairly procured for him, contrary to his Majesties last direction?

47 How many Communicants are therof, within and belonging to your Parish?

V. Articles concerning Matrimony.

Whether be there any in your Parish, that have married within the degrees of affinity or consanguinity, by the Law of God forbidden, and expressed in a certain table, published by authority, in Anno 1563: and if any have so married, what be their names? and where were they married, and by whom?

2 Whether hath any been married secretly, in private houses, or without their parents or governors consent signified, being under the age of 21 yeeres?

3 Whether do any persons lawfully married, live asunder unlawfully: and in whom is the default?

4 Whether have any persons been married, the banns having not been thrice published, three severall sundayes or holidayes, in time of divine service, without licence from the Arch-bishop or Bishop of the Diocese, or his Chancellor? who were present at such marriages: and what Minister married them?

5 Whether have any persons, by licence, or without, bene married in your Parish Church, neither of them at that time, dwelling in your town, & not within the heures of eight and twelve in the forenoon.

6 What Popish Recusants, or their children, have been married in your Parish: in what sort was that Matrimony solemnized? when, and by whom?

7 Whether do any, heretofore divorced, or married and not divorced, keepe company at bed and board, as man and wife, with any other man or woman, then with the person, that he and she were married unto? what be their names, when and where were they married, and how long have they so continued together?

8 Whether have you any in your parish, which live together as man and wife, and yet not known, by whom, where, or when they were married?

VI. Articles concerning the Church-wardens and Sidemen.

Whether be the Church-wardens chosen by the Minister and parishioners, according to the 89 Canon? And whether hath any taken upon him to be Church-warden, not being so chosen: or hath any continued above one yeare in his office, without a new choice?

2 Whether have the Church-wardens retained any of the Church-goods in their hands, and not made a full account, at their going out of their office, of what they have received, and expended; or not delivered to you their successors, whatsoever money, or other things belonging to the Church, that remained in their hands?

3 Do the Church-wardens and Sidemen, or Assistants, diligently see that all the parishioners do duly resort to the Church upon all Sundayes and Holidayes; and there continue the whole time of divine Service & Sermon; suffering no idle persons to walke, or talke, or stand idle, either in the Church, Church-yard, or Churchporch, during the time of divine Service or Sermon, but causing them either to come into the Church, or else to depart: and have they the said Church-wardens forborne either for reward, favour, or affection, to present them that have been, or are negligent in coming

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to church: or that have been found by them standing idle, or talking abroad, either in the churchyard, or streets, in the time of divine Service, or Sermon, on Sundayes or Holydayes: or that have not received the communion yerely, at the feast of Easter, or with= in one month after, according to the Canon ?

4 Whether do the churchwardens, yearly within forty dayes after Easter, exhibit to the Bishop, or his chancellour, the names and surnames of all the parishioners, as well men as women, which being of the age of 16 yeares and upward, received not the communion at the Easter befoze ?

5 Whether do the churchwardens provide, against every communion, with the ad= vice of the Minister, a sufficient quantity of fine white bread, and of good and whole= some wine, for the number of communicants, that are to receive ? and is that wine brought in a cleane and sweet standing pot of pewter, or of other finer metall ?

6 Whether have the churchwardens suffered the church, church=yard, or chappell, to be profaned, by playes, feasts, banquets, suppers, church=ales, drinkings, temporall courts or leets, lay=alties, musters, &c. acted, kept, or held in them ?

VII. Articles concerning the Parishioners.

1 **V**Whether do any in your parish profane the Lords day or any other Holyday by unlawfull gaming, drinking, or tipping, in taverns, innes, or alehouses, in the time of common prayer, or sermon: or by swa king & doing the works of their trades and occupations: whether do any in your parish, buy or sell, or keep open their shops, or set out any wares to be sold, upon Sundayes, and helydayes by themselves, their servants or apprentices: or have they any otherwise profaned the said dayes ?

2 Is there any in your parish, that doth impugne, or speake against the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England or the lawfull use of them: or that affirme, that the form of making & consecrating Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, or any thing there= in contained, is repugnant to the word of God, or that the government of this church, under his Majestic, by Arch=bishops, Bishops, and other ecclesiasticall officers, is Antichristian: or hath any spoken reproachfully or disgracefully, of the Kings Majesties courts ecclesiasticall, or the proceedings thereof ?

3 Have you any in your parish, that do come to the sermon onely, and not to divine service, or that doe not reverently behave themselves, during the time of divine service, devoutly kneeling, when the generall confession of sinnes, the litaney, the ten com= mandments, and all prayers and collectes are read, and using all due and lowly reverence: when the blessed name of the Lord Jesus is mentioned, and standing up when the Ar= ticles of the Be= lief are read: or which do cover their heads in the church during the time of divine service (unlesse it be in case of necessity, in which case they may weare a night cap) or which do then and there give themselves to babling, talking, or walking, and are not attentive to heare Gods word read or preached ?

4 Whether do any within your parish men or women, being 16 yeares of age and up= ward, or any other, lodging, or commonly resorting to any house in your parish, wilfully absent themselves from your parish church, or chappell, upon Sundayes and Holy= dayes, and other dayes appointed, at morning and evening prayers, or refuse to receive the communion: and who do come late to Church and depart from thence befoze di= vine service & sermon be ended: and whether be there any in your parish, that doe perswade others from coming to Church, or from receiving the holy communion, according to his Majesties lawes, in that behalfe enacted.

5 Whether have you any popish recusant, or recusants, in your parish, that be of in= solent behaviour, not without publick offence: or that do boldly busse themselves in se=

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ducing or withdrawing others, either abroad, or in their owne families, from the religion established in the Church of England?

6 How long have the sayd popish recusants obstinately abstained, either from divine service, or from the communion? whether of any long time, or of late only?

7 Brethere any in your parish, who, notwithstanding you have a preaching Minister, do absent themselves from his sermons, and resort to other places to heare other Preachers? or are there any in your parish, that do communicate, or baptize their children in any other parish?

8 Whether hath any person within your parish (under Noblemen, and men qualified by law) any Chaplaine in his house: and if so, you shall present their names.

9 Is there any in your parish, who do refuse to have their children baptized, or themselves to receive the communion, at the hand of your Minister, because hee is no Preacher?

10 whether doth any married woman within your parish, refuse, after childbirth, or neglect: o come to church according to the booke of Common Prayer, to give thanks to God for her safe deliverance, in a decent habit, as hath been antiently accustomed?

11 Have any in your parish spoken slanderous and reprochfull words, either against your Minister, to the scandall of his calling; or against the marriage of Ministers, or their wives; or against their neighbours, defaming them touching any crime of ecclesiasticall cognisance?

12 Whether is the first day of November observed & kept in your parish, with prayer and thanksgiving to God, in such forme, as is by publicke authority appointed for that day?

13 Whether have you any in your parish that are commonly knowne, or reputed to be blasphemers of Gods holy name, common and usuall swearers, drunkards, filthy speakers, adulterers, fornicators, incestuous persons, concealers or harbourers of fornicators, or adulterers? have any in your parish been detected of such notorious crimes and what penance have they done for the same?

14 What corporall punishment, for any such offences, hath been commuted and changed into a pecuniary mulct, or sum of money, by any ecclesiasticall Judge exercising jurisdiction within this Diocese, by vertue of any grant or commission? what was the sum of money, by any of them so received and taken, and to what uses was the same employed? and whether upon such commutations, was the unfeigned repentance of the delinquent published in the Church.

15 Whether do all fathers, mothers, masters and Mistresses, cause their children, servants, and apprentices, to come to the catechisme on Sundayes, and holidayes, before evening prayer, to be instructed and taught therein: and those that do not their duties herein, you shall present their names.

16 Whether have any in your parish received or harboured any woman gotten with child out of wedlocke, and suffered her to depart without punishment first inflicted on her by the Ordinary: you shall truly present as well the party harbozing as harbored, and who is suspected to be the father of the child.

17 Whether is any person or persons suspected, or detected heretofore of incontinency, and therefore departing out of your parish for a season, is now returned again; or in what place else is he, or she, now abiding, to your knowledge, or as you have heard: you shall not fail to present the whole truth in that behalfe.

18 Whether are there any lately deceased in your parish, whose last wills and testaments have not yet been proved; or did they die intestate? and if so, who hath taken

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upon him the administration of their goods: and whether by lawfull authority from the Ordinary, or without: what be the names of such deceased, and of their executors, or administrators?

19 What persons be excommunicated in your parish, and for what cause, to your knowledge, and how long have they stood excommunicated and whether do any of them, not being absolved, presume to be present in the church, at divine service: and whether do any familiarly use the company of such, as do obstinately stand excommunicated, knowing the same; and what be their names?

20 Whether do you know of any, that have abused the Churchwardens, or Aldermen of your parish, or given them evil words, for executing of their office, according as by oath and duty they are bound?

VIII. Articles concerning Schoolmasters, Physicians, Chyrurgians, Parish-clerks, and Midwives.

V Whether have you any schoolmaster in your parish, that teacheth publickly, or privately there, not having been examined, allowed, and licenced by the Ordinary, or the Bishop of the Diocese: doth any Papist keep a schoolmaster in his house, who cometh not to church, to heare divine service, and to receive the holy communion: what is his name, and how long hath he taught there, or elsewhere: doth your schoolmaster teach any Papists, or sectaries children, that come not to Church: doth he instruct all his scholars, to learne the short catechisme, by law established, and contained in the book of common prayer, at the least once every week: is he of honest and sincere life, religion, and conversation: is he a graduate, and sufficient to teach, and diligent in teaching, and bringing up of youth?

2 Whether is any thing withholden and otherwise employed that hath been given to the use of a schoole in your parish, what is it, by whom is it imbezeled?

3 What physician or chirurgian have you in your parish, who not being a Doctor of physicke in either of the Universities, doth notwithstanding practise physicke, without the licence of the Bishop: what other persons have you among you, either male or female, who take upon them to profess Physicke or Chirurgery: and who be Midwives in your parish, and whether they be sworne women and licensed thereunto?

4 Have you a fit parish-clerke, aged twenty yeeres at least, of honest life, able to read and write: are his, and the sextons wages duly payd without fraud or diminution, according to the ancient custome of your parish: by whom is he chosen: is he diligent in his office, and serviceable to the Minister: doth he keep the Church cleane, and the dores locked: is there any thing lost or spoiled by his default: and doth he execute his office duly, and he take upon him to meddle with any thing above his office, as churching of women, burying the dead, or such like?

IX. Articles concerning Ecclesiasticall Officers.

V Whether are there any ecclesiasticall officers, exercising ecclesiasticall jurisdiction within this diocese, who doe take, receive, or exact any extraordinary fees for any cause?

2 Whether have the Churchwardens and questmen concealed, and not presented any?

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any abuses or offences, punishable in the ecclesiasticall court: or whether have any such offences, being by them presented to the Chancelor, Arch-deacon, Official, or any other using ecclesiasticall iurisdiction within this diocese, been suppressed by them, or left unpunished, for bribe, reward, pleasure, friendship, or any other partiall respect?

3 Whether are there placed by the Register, two tables, containing the severall rates and summes of all fees due to the Judge, and other officers of your Courts; one in the usuall place of Consistory where the court is kept the other in his Registry, in such sort as every man may come to view the same without difficulty? and whether doth the Chancelour, Arch-deacon, or any other officer or minister, exact, or extort any greater fees, or summes of money than in the said tables are contained?

4 Whether doth the Chancelour, Arch-deacon, or Official, or any other exercising iurisdiction ecclesiasticall within this Diocese, commute or change any penance, or corporal punishment, for any money, without the consent of the Bishop: and what money have they, or any of them receivd for such commutation, and of whom, when, and what was the offence, for which any such sum of money was received or appointed to be paid?

5 Whether doth the Chancelour, Arch-deacon or Official, or any other person, using ecclesiasticall iurisdiction, speed any act, in any cause, privately of themselves, and not in the presence of some publicke Notary or Attorney?

6 Whether is the number of Apparitors, increased in this Diocese: and wherein, and in what manner is the countrey overburdened or grieved by them? hath any of them, under pretence of authority cited or summoned any person unlawfully, or hath any of them taken any reward for the concealing of any offence or sinne, or that the offenders might escape punishment? who be they that have so done: or doe any of them take any fees that are not usuall? have they threatned any to prosecute them, if they had no reward given them? or doe any of them cause any party to appear in any ecclesiasticall court within this Diocese, without first a citation obtained from the Judge of the court?

7 Whether hath any ecclesiasticall Judge or officer whatsoever, Advocate, Register, Proctor, Clerks, or other such Ministers, any way abused themselves in their offices, contrary to the lawes and Canons in that behalfe provided?

Lastly, whether have you and every of you sincerely uprightly, and without any partiall affection, and concealment presented and made knowne all and every the offenders, in any of the particulars mentioned in the precedent Articles, exhibited unto you; either as they are taken in truth to be or by common fame reported?

If you know any other matter of ecclesiasticall cognizance, worthy the presentment in your judgement and fit to be reformed by ecclesiasticall censure, though it be not expressed in these Articles, yet you shall likewise present the same, by vertue of your oaths.

The Ministers of every parish, whether Parson Vicar, or Curate, are to give their assistance and advice to the Churchwardens and Stewards in examining these Articles, and may joyne in Presentment with them, or present themselves, in case they see them careless and negligent, they being the Persons that should have the chief care for the suppressing of sinne and disorder in their parish, as having the Cure of their soules, committed to their charge.

FINIS.